

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 00886 201818Z
ACTION SS-25

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S E C R E T GENEVA 00886

EXDIS

USSALTTWO

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PARM
SUBJECT: DRAFTING GROUP MEETING NO. 185, JANUARY 20, 1978
(SALT TWO - 1575)

REF: SALT TWO 1573

SUMMARY: MEETING IN WHICH SENATOR STEVENSON PARTICIPATED
DEALT WITH EXCHANGE OF ALREADY AGREED TEXTS. SOVIETS
TABLED LANGUAGE PRESENTED IN PLENARY OF JANUARY 18
(REFTEL) AND SIDES EXCHANGED RELEVANT PAGES OF JDT.
US PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO COMMON UNDERSTANDING OF II.5
STIPULATING THAT SS-18 WAS HEAVIEST ICBM, WHICH SOVIETS
ACCEPTED. ONLY MATTER WHICH LED TO DISCUSSION WAS US
STATEMENT RE SS-16 COMPONENTS, WHICH SOVIETS AGREED TO
STUDY. END SUMMARY.

1. SMOLIN RECALLED LENGTHY DISCUSSION OF MIRV DEFINITION
AND THAT ISSUE WAS STILL UNRESOLVED WHEN TALKS RECESSED
IN DECEMBER. US ON JANUARY 12 STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF
RESOLVING II.5 AND SOVIET PLENARY STATEMENT JANUARY 18
PROPOSED SOLUTION. SOVIETS THEN TABLED AGREED STATEMENT
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AND COMMON UNDERSTANDING FOR II.1 AND II.5 WHICH WERE
IDENTICAL WITH TEXTS OFFERED AT PLENARY AND US INDICATED
AGREEMENT.

2. PEREZ PROPOSED REVISION OF COMMON UNDERSTANDING TO
II.5. DESCRIBING SS-18 AS HEAVIEST IN TERMS OF LAUNCH-
WEIGHT AND THROW-WEIGHT OF HEAVY ICBMS. SMOLIN SAID

HE WAS AUTHORIZED TO AGREE.

3. SMOLIN EXPRESSED PLEASURE AT GROUP'S SUCCESS IN REACHING AGREEMENT ON PARTS OF JDT CONCERNING MIRV DEFINITION AND ALSO NOTED AGREEMENT TO ARTICLE IV.8. PEREZ POINTED OUT THAT THE COMMON UNDERSTANDING ON THE SS-16 ASSOCIATED WITH THAT PARAGRAPH WAS NOT FULLY AGREED. PEREZ STATED THAT BRACKETED LANGUAGE IN THE COMMON UNDERSTANDING WAS PROPOSED BY US TO MAKE CLEAR THAT COMMITMENT NOT TO PRODUCE SS-16 INCLUDES COMMITMENT NOT TO PRODUCE ANY OF REFERENCED COMPONENTS. THIS IS NOT INTENDED AS ADDITIONAL OBLIGATION BUT SOLELY AS CLARIFICATION. IT ALSO NOT INTENDED TO AFFECT PRODUCTION OF COMPONENTS OF SYSTEMS NOT LIMITED BY THE TREATY. SMOLIN ASKED WHETHER US STATEMENT WAS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE INFORMATION RATHER THAN INDICATE NEW OBLIGATION. PEREZ CONFIRMED THAT WAS US INTENTION. SMOLIN NOTED THAT SOVIET POSITION HAS FREQUENTLY BEEN EXPRESSED AND THEY HAD ARGUED FOR WHAT MIGHT BE BEST SOLUTION BUT APPARENTLY HAD NOT SUBSTANTIATED THEIR POSITION SATISFACTORILY. SOVIETS WOULD STUDY US VIEWS.

4. NEXT DRAFTING GROUP MEETING SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 25.
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